



Leppington, Birch Hill, Bracknell, RG12 7WW
Headteacher: Michael Dillon B Ed (Hons) MA

Consultation on a proposal to develop a new provision at Birch Hill Primary School to support pupils with autism and other related needs.

What are we proposing?

Bracknell Forest Council, in partnership with the governors and Senior Leadership Team of Birch Hill Primary School, want to develop a new Specially Resourced Provision (SRP) for up to 10 children who are on the autistic spectrum and may have other related learning needs such as; Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD), speech, language and/or communication.

The provision would have a defined admission criteria.

The provision will be run by a specialist team who would support the individual needs of the children and encourage the children to take part in mainstream classes where possible.

This provision would start taking Reception aged children from September 2021, plus approximately three pupils from across the school.

Then in September 2022, another two pupils will start in Reception and so on, building up to full capacity of 10 pupils across the school by September 2025.

There is some flexibility in the above numbers – e.g. we may admit more in September 2021 and build up to capacity in a shorter period.

It may be considered later down the line to further increase capacity, but that is not an option at this point. This additional development would depend on the success of starting with the first 10 places.

Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) at Birch Hill Primary School

Our school vision and motto is Learn, Believe, Achieve Together. Our aim is to develop all children's aspirations through high quality teaching and an inclusive approach. We have a proven track record of early identification and working closely with parents and other professionals to co-produce provision that meets the needs of our children.

Our staff already have good skills in teaching and supporting children with autism and other SEND in an inclusive way. The Headteacher, SENDCo and governors all feel that having the specially resourced provision (SRP) will be a natural extension to the work we already do in the school.

What physical changes are required to the school?

A number of improvements would be made to Birch Hill Primary School, as part of the proposal that would benefit all pupils. These would include refurbishing and developing the modular building:

- Refurbish one of the modular classrooms.
- Convert one set of the toilets into a sensory room that would be used as a calming, sensory space and enable us to deliver occupational therapy.
- Create a disabled/adult toilet.
- Refurbish some of the outdoor space around the modular.

These improvements would be carried out with as little disruption to the school as possible; the timing of the building works has not been decided. The building works are not essential to us starting the provision, so we are aiming for the first children to start in the resourced provision at Birch Hill Primary in September 2021.

How would this affect staff at the school?

As a school, we would support shared teaching and learning in both the SRP and Mainstream by ensuring that planning is shared with appropriate year group teachers. The lead teacher/SENDCo will have regular meetings with class teachers to ensure there is a shared approach to the education of the children in the SRP.

We envisage that all pupils in the SRP would be welcomed into class for pre-arranged and regular lessons. All teachers and TAs would spend time in the SRP getting to know the children in their calm, low stimulus environment and observing strategies in place to support their individual needs. This would ensure a positive transition into the mainstream classrooms and create positive relationships between all involved.

Training and support would be given to all staff at Birch Hill Primary School.

Consultation process and dates

This document is part of the informal consultation stage, which takes place before formal consultation (also known as statutory consultation). The purpose of the informal consultation stage is for us to have open conversations with parents, carers, staff and other interested parties to understand any concerns and answer any questions.

This informal consultation will then help us decide whether we need to rethink any of our plans, before we go to formal (statutory) consultation.

Informal consultation will start **on Wednesday 27th January 2021**. Information will also be available on the school's website.

The last day for feedback for this stage of consultation will be **on Wednesday 10th February 2021**.

The formal (statutory) consultation will then start on **Monday 22nd February 2021 and run until Monday 21st March**.

We would like to know

1. If you agree with our proposal to develop a specially resourced provision for up to 10 pupils at Birch Hill Primary School.

2. If you disagree with this proposal or have any comments or concerns about it.

An independent person is used as point of contact for this but please do also contact us with questions/comments if you need to.

Emma Ferrey, Bracknell Forest Council SEND Consultant. Emma is happy to answer any of your questions and is contactable on:

Email: emma@tillian.co.uk

Tel: **07932 660092**